From:	Jeff Robbins
To:	City Council
Subject:	Strong concerns over Council HP vote
Date:	Thursday, April 19, 2018 3:35:20 PM

Hi. Quick background: My name is Jeffrey Robbins. I was born in Cambridge in 1961. I attended Harvard and raised 3 children in Cambridge. My younger 2 attended CRLS. I run a software company, LiveData, located at 810 Memorial Drive in Cambridge.

My middle child, Eitan Stern-Robbins, passed away 5 years ago as a freshman in college. He loved his city.

I can only imagine what Eitan would say about his city taking a vote on such a complex topic affecting the Jewish people, a part of his identity, with so little public discussion preceding the vote.

As a member of Youth Involvement subcommittee of the Cambridge Kids Council, Eitan was group spokesperson at a State House hearing regarding a lower voting age for local elections. If he could now speak, I am confident he would point out the need for serious public discussion prior to taking any action, however "symbolic" that could negatively impact the security of Jews living in Israel.

Eitan passed away before the Boston Marathon bombing, in which the captain of Eitan's CRLS wrestling team shamefully partipated. Eitan had several Muslim friends and wanted only peace for all.

While the plight of Palestinian Arabs isn't solely attributable to Islamic extremism, or Arab rejectionism, to ignore these factors in understanding the electoral success of Israel's right wing is to remain part of the problem rather than the intention to be part of the solution.

BDS has been a deceptive movement, ambiguous about its commitment to a secure Jewish State. Even Norman Finklestein, a staunch academic critic of Israeli policies and ongoing role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, has distanced himself from BDS.

https://newrepublic.com/article/122257/unpopular-man-norman-finkelstein-comes-out-against-bds-movement

I strongly urge the Council to "put the brakes on" , and allow a fair and appropriate democratic public process, with full transparency, before taking a vote that would represent a betrayal of so many things we hold dear about a city that is inclusive, progressive, and democratic.

Sincerely,
Jeff Robbins
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